

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 041521
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
/095 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:DVKILLION:JZ
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP
EUR/SOV:RPERITO

-----053316 162153Z /61

O 162132Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 041521

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MR, MO, AG, SS, PBOR

SUBJECT: MOUKNASS MEETING

REFS: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 392, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 0083, (C) KILLION-
AMBASSADOR O/I OF 1/28/78

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS' PRESENTATION TO YOU ON
WESTERN SAHARAN SITUATION, ALGERIAN SUPPORT OF POLISARIO,
USE OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONS, AND QUESTIONING OF "LUXURY"
OF CONTINUED US NEUTRALITY ARE POINTS ALREADY MADE HERE ON
OCCASION BY AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN IN CALLS ON SENIOR AF
OFFICIALS. MOUKNASS' CASTIGATION OF SOVIETS AS PRIME
ARCHITECT OF WESTERN SAHARA AGGRESSION IS NEW ELEMENT, BUT
ONE FOR WHICH WE FIND NO RPT NO EVIDENCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 041521

2. SUGGEST YOU INFORM MOUKNASS THAT WE HAVE EXAMINED CARE-
FULLY AND WITH INTEREST HIS THOUGHTFUL AND FORCEFUL PRESEN-
TATION TO YOU, THAT WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION VERY
CLOSELY, AND THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT CIRCUM-
STANCES WHICH MAURITANIA FACES. WE HAVE OURSELVES PUBLICLY
REFERRED TO ALGERIAN PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND

DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO THE POLISARIO. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR
NEUTRALITY IS IN BEST INTERESTS OF PARTIES CONCERNED,
CONTINUE TO URGE REGIONAL SOLUTION OF DISPUTE, AND WISH TO
AVOID MAJOR POWER INVOLVEMENT IN WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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